

REMARKS

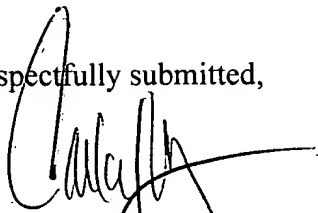
Claims 17 and 18 were previously presented and have been allowed. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the rigid frame assembly contains a series of spaced apart vertical frame members in a common plane and that there is at least one unobstructed cavity creating a linear path between all of these vertical frame members and the facing panel members. None of the references of record teach or suggest such a structure.

Charman discloses office screens and partitions, each having two vertical frame members. These partitions can be placed side by side to form a rigid frame assembly as shown in Figure 1. As can be seen in Figures 2 and 3 there is an unobstructed cavity within each partition. But when the partitions are assembled side by side there is no unobstructed linear path between all of the partitions and the panels attached to the partitions. This can be seen most clearly in Figure 22 where flaps 144 extend a small distance beyond each post 15, 16 "ensuring that cable passing between flaps 144 and the posts 15, 16 will be shrouded from outside the screen." Col. 8, lines 20-38. That is, cable passing from one panel to the next is routed from within the frame and between the vertical support members or posts to go around the posts in a somewhat serpentine path. This means that once the partitions are assembled and placed side by side it is very difficult to direct a cable from one end of the structure to the opposite end. That is so because there is no unobstructed linear path from one end of the structure to the opposite end. The system of claim 1 does not present such problems because there is an unobstructed linear path between the panels and the vertical frame members.

None of the other references of record teach or suggest the provision of an unobstructed linear path between the panels and the frames. Therefore, claim 1 as amended is patentable over

the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 and claims 2, 6-13, 15 and 16 which depend from claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla J. Vrsansky', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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